

Singapore

Boss raped me repeatedly, says maid

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264 words

23 June 2006

[Straits Times](#)

STIMES

English

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A 47-YEAR-OLD married man appeared in court yesterday, accused of repeatedly raping his maid two years ago.

The maid, a 38-year-old Indian national, claims that Sudarsanan Margasayagam forced himself on her nearly every night from the first day she started work in his flat in June 2004.

Yesterday, the High Court decided there was enough evidence to order the man to stand trial.

At the preliminary inquiry yesterday, the woman appeared as a key prosecution witness. She kept her head bowed, not looking once at Sudarsanan, who was glaring at her from the dock.

According to court documents, the woman's ordeal began on June 1, 2004, at Sudarsanan's home, an HDB flat in Woodlands Street 31.

That night, she claims, he pinned her to the bed in the master bedroom and raped her. Over the following two nights, he raped her again, then again on June 5 and 6.

It is understood that the maid, who is now under the care of a welfare home, returned to her agent and later reported her allegations to the police.

Yesterday, Deputy Public Prosecutors Christopher Ong and Chew Chin Yee told the court there will be 19 witnesses testifying for the prosecution.

These include police officers and various doctors who examined the woman.

The trial is set to run from July 17 to 21.

If convicted of rape, Sudarsanan, who is represented by lawyer Surian Sidambaram, could face up to 20 years in jail and be caned at least 12 strokes.